

Middletown Complete Streets Committee Meeting

Date of meeting: 1/14/13

Called to order: 7:04 PM

In attendance: John Hall, Brian Kent, Amy Vaillancourt, Howard Reid, Kate Wolfe, Beth Emery, Jane Harris, Mark Thompson, Pam Frost, Jen Kleindienst

John Hall opened the meeting and noted that all meeting dates for the year must be registered in advance with the City. A list of the dates for 2013 was circulated. John indicated that the February meeting will be held in Council Chambers but an alternate location is needed for subsequent dates. Amy Vaillancourt offered to see if the conference room of her firm would be available.

Updates on the assignments from the last meeting were provided:

Grant for new multiuse path: Amy reported that funds have been awarded for this project, which will be administered by the newly created Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments with the state DOT and the VHB engineering firm. Work should begin soon on preliminary design.

Meeting with Middletown Public Schools superintendent: John reported that this meeting will take place on Thursday, 1/17. (Post meeting note: The meeting with Pat Charles was attended by Ron Krom, Howard Reid, and John Hall. It was a very positive meeting and Dr. Charles immediately sent a wonderful letter of support for our plan, emphasizing Safe Routes to School.)

Possible logo for Committee: Jane Harris distributed examples of logos which have been developed for similar groups. She noted that our group should decide in advance what we want to emphasize to the public. This will be discussed at greater length at an upcoming meeting. Brian Kent raised the issue of the future status of the committee, given that it was created by the Common Council for a 24 month period, which ends later this year. Brian said some similar groups choose to become non-profits, focusing on advocacy, and others have chosen to become part of their local municipal government. Discussion ensued regarding the best approach to sustaining this effort, including the roles to be played both by the final structure of the group and by community support.

Review of draft Complete Streets plan: Brian distributed copies of the latest draft of the plan. He reviewed its content with particular attention to new and revised material. Committee members present made some suggestions, and all Committee members are encouraged to email comments and suggestions to Brian by Monday, January 21. The draft will be sent via email to all members to facilitate this.

Complete Streets presentation: Brian presented a slideshow on Complete Streets which has been developed and made available by the National Complete Streets Coalition. Committee members felt it was a very good introduction to Complete Streets and briefly discussed including it a possible workshop with the Common Council.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.